

Atty Dkt. No.: 10004031-2
USSN: 10/691,037

AMENDMENTS

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and bonding the second layer to a first layer of resilient material, **wherein said second layer is held in radial tension and** wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second layer is a resilient material.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and a third layer and bonding the second and third layers to opposite surfaces of a first layer of resilient material such that the bonded second and third layers are under tension, **wherein said second and third layer are held in radial tension and** wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers prior to and during bonding to the first layer.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the tension is applied by pulling on the second and third layers.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers by chemical or thermal shrinkage after bonding to the first layer.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein after bonding to the first layer, each of the second and third layers are under a tension of between 5 to 1000

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newton/m.

21. (Original) A method according to Claim 20 wherein each of the second and third layers comprise a resilient material.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers comprise a resilient polymer.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers has a thickness of less than 10 mm.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein after bonding to the second and third layers and third layers.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~Claim 8~~ Claim 16 wherein the first layer is held in a compression of between 5 to 1000 newton/m.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by chemical or thermal expansion of the ~~third~~ first layer.

Please add the following new claim:

27. (New) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by pre-chilling the first layer or by chemical means.